to Tinsukia is 464 kms. and is estimated to cost Rs. 342 crores. Another survey for conversion of the existing MG line from Guwahati to Dibrugarh into BG has also been conducted. The length of this line is 545 kms. and is estimated to cost Rs. 327 crores. A final decision regarding extension of BG line beyond Guwahati will be taken after examination of the Survey Reports.

Vayudoot service between Shillong and Delhi

1528. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Vayudoot earns the highest revenue from the Calcutta-Shillong route;

(b) whether there is any proposal to connect Delhi with Shillong by Vayudoot service in the near future;

(c) whether Government propose to improve the Shillong Airport with facilities like telecommunication services, the fueling station and its runway;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) no, Sir.

(c) to (e) There are no plans at present because the existing facilities are adequate to support the present aircraft operations.

Bridge over Shillong-Tamabil National Highway

1529. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to construct a new bridge over Umshyrpi stream on the National Highway (Shillong-Tamabil Road) at the 4th furlong of the 2nd mile;

(b) whether Government are aware that the present bridge built about a century ago is in a very bad condition;

(c) whether it is a fact that the existing bridge was constructed with the maximum load capacity of ten tonnes only and that at present, trucks and buses carrying a load of fifteen and twenty tonnes are plying through this bridge; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The existing bridge which is very old was constructed for Class 12 loading and its present condition is satisfactory. No records are maintained for the load carried by trucks and buses plying over the bridge. However, efforts are being made to restrict the load of buses and trucks according to the loading capacity of the bridge.

(d) The reconstruction of the bridge according to the present day loading standards will improve the load carrying capacity.

Introduction of flight by Foreign Air Lines

1530. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of foreign airlines have requested Government for permission for introduction of their flights to India;

(b) if so, what are the names of these airlines with details of new routes requested by each of the airlines;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Air India has started or propose to start some new routes; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Airlines like Alia (Jordanian Airlines), *Austrian Airlines (Austria)*, *Iberia* (Spain), Turkish (Turkey), JAT (Yugoslavia) and Interflug (East Germany) have evinced interest to fly to India. Routes etc., will be discussed at the time of airline talks.

(c) and (d) Air India have plans to introduce twice weekly A-310 services to Stockholm in January, 1987 as an extension of their current service to Moscow subject to me clearance by Scandanavian authorities.

Arbitration of foreign shipping companies disputes in India

1531. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a proposal to undertake arbitration on disputes with foreign shipping companies in India and not in London; and

(b) if so, the details of the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Helicopter Corporation of India

1532. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 717 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30th April, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Helicopter Corporation of India has started functioning; and

(b) if so, the areas likely to be covered by it and the details of its functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Yes, Sir.

(b) In tune with its objectives, the main functions of the Helicoptor Corporation of India can be divided into the following categories:—

(i) to provide helicopter based air transportation support to the petroleum Sector; and

(ii) to provide scheduled/non-scheduled services in the inaccessible areas and hilly terrains, intra-city transportation and tourist charters etc.

The operational activities of the Helicopter Corporation of India will be spread all over the country.

Aircraft in place of Kanishka

1533. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1718 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th March, 1986 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to select an aircraft to replace Boeing 747 Kanishka which was destroyed in the crash last year and

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Air India is in the process of selection of an aircraft to replace 'Kanishka'. Enquiries have been floated in this regard.

Entrusting art objects to experts

1534. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the officers who carry rare art objects to